

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 14-17 are pending.

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11 and 14-17 stand allowed

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected.

Claims 1, 16 and 17 were amended to correct the ASTM and ASME testing standard numbers.

- a) "ASTM D103" was amended to cite "ASTM D1003" – as originally disclosed on page 28, line 25 of the specification.
- b) "ASTM D20805-80" was amended to cite "ASTM D2805-80" – as originally disclosed on page 28, line 26 of the specification.
- c) "ASTM methods B46.11, B361.2" was amended to cite "ASME methods B46.1.1, B46.1.2" – as originally disclosed on page 13, lines 13 and 14 of the specification.
- d) "ASTM 1163" was amended to cite "ASTM 1164" as originally disclosed on page 13, line 29 of the specification.

Claims 16 and 17 were amended to cite a range of "5 – 60%" by weight of the highly crosslinked spherical polymeric particles – consistent with the range in Claim 6.

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to remove the uncertain "if the resin is extruded into a 0.125 inch thick sheet" and cite instead "wherein a 0.125 inch thick sheet extruded from said resin".

Comments: A Notice of Allowance was previously received for the present claims. Due to the receipt of a Notice of opposition in the European equivalent of this application, Applicant filed an RCE, an a Supplemental IDS listing all documents cited against the case in the European Opposition.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

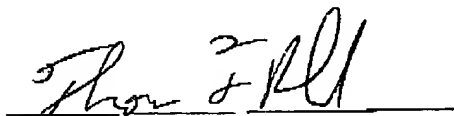
35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennig et al (US 4,876,311). The Examiner has stated that these claims were previously considered to require the claimed properties...however the Examiner now takes the position that the claims do not positively recite these limitations.

Applicant has amended claims 16 and 17 to cite "and wherein a 0.125 inch thick sheet extruded from said resin" to make it clear that the resin of these claims has the listed optical and surface properties, which for standard test purposes are measured on a 0.125 inch thick sheet formed from the resin. The resin does not have to be formed into a sheet to be within the scope of the claims, but the resin must have the stated properties, which are measured on the stated standard material. All resin covered within the scope of these claims will have the stated properties - as measured on a standard sheet by ASTM and ASME standard test methods. The claims as amended are clear and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that the claims, as amended, should be allowable to the Applicant. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Roland, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,110

Date: 9/12/05

ATOFINA Chemicals, Inc.
Patent Department - 26th floor
2000 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-322
Tel (215) 419-7314
Fax (215) 419-7075